

Message

From: Jim Kunstman [jkunstman@pbigordon.com]
Sent: 11/23/2020 10:12:02 PM
To: Picone, Kaitlin [Picone.Kaitlin@epa.gov]
CC: Ray McAllister [rmcallister@croplifeamerica.org]; Manojit Basu [mbasu@croplifeamerica.org]; rlattimore@croplifeamerica.org; jrathvon@paleyrothman.com; Messina, Edward [Messina.Edward@epa.gov]; Wormell, Lance [Wormell.Lance@epa.gov]; Teter, Royan [Teter.Royan@epa.gov]; Trivedi, Adrienne [Trivedi.Adrienne@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Your Recent Letter to AAPCO & SFIREG Re: Pesticide Impurities
Attachments: Response to Messina letter of 15-Oct - 20201123 final-signed.pdf

Kaitlin,

Hello again! I've prepared some additional thoughts on the issue discussed last week thru our emails and put together the attached document.

This is no longer an issue for PBI-Gordon as we recalled our affected product back in 2017 to avoid the hassles I saw coming. We haven't canceled the registrations, however, in hopes that one day things will become clearer as to how products like this will be regulated. I chose to respond to this issue more because I think this issue can be resolved with proper discussion amongst all parties. What PBI-Gordon and other companies have gone and are going through because of the cloudiness of regulations is what discourages registrants from pursuing new organic product registrations.

I am optimistic that given some time, more research, and proper discussion, this issue can be overcome which is why I offer my thoughts and willingness to continue the conversation. The fact that this conversation is still needed, is why I again suggest that Ed indicates with further communication to AAPCO & SFIREG that the topics covered in his Oct 15 letter are preliminary in nature .. and need some more flushing out.

Thanks again for your efforts .. and hope you all have a great Thanksgiving holiday.

Jim

From: Jim Kunstman
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Picone, Kaitlin <Picone.Kaitlin@epa.gov>
Cc: Ray McAllister <rmcallister@croplifeamerica.org>; Manojit Basu <mbasu@croplifeamerica.org>; Chris Novak <novak@croplifeamerica.org>; rlattimore@croplifeamerica.org; jrathvon@paleyrothman.com; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Wormell, Lance <Wormell.Lance@epa.gov>; Teter, Royan <Teter.Royan@epa.gov>; Trivedi, Adrienne <Trivedi.Adrienne@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Your Recent Letter to AAPCO & SFIREG Re: Pesticide Impurities

Kaitlin,

Hey .. I just wanted to thank you for responding to my letter to Ed Messina. I don't think we've met yet .. but I know Ed wouldn't let just anyone handle issues like this .. so looking forward to some meaningful dialogue. I do have to wonder about someone who claims to enjoy discussing policy & procedures .. ha ha.

I did discuss this issue a bit at the Crop Life America (CLA) Registration Committee meeting last week, so I would like a day or so to compile the thoughts that were generated. I am also on the Strategic Oversight Council (SOC) for CLA and I wish that I would have had the letter to discuss when Ed spoke to that group a few weeks ago.

You are correct in noticing that our biggest concern is over the perceived change in how EPA is handling traditional versus organic products relative to the terms "adulterated" and "misbranding" and how PR 96-8 is being

considered. Overall, I have to say that I was very pleased to see much of what was shared in the letter of Oct 15 .. clarifying which were issues and which should be looked into more. As I also indicated in my letter to Ed, my other concern is that his letter is already being used in legal battles to make points which I believe should still be under open discussion.

So .. as I indicated above .. I'll try to get back to you in a day or so to more clearly outline the issues .. and we can perhaps look to early next week if an additional discussion is needed.

Thanks again,

Jim

James L Kunstman, PhD

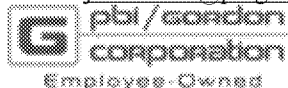
Vice President, Regulatory & GLP Compliance
PBI-Gordon Corporation
22701 W 68th Terrace
Shawnee, KS 66226

PHONE: 816.460.6292

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

FAX: 816.460.3792

EMAIL: jkunstman@pbigordon.com



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From: Picone, Kaitlin <Picone.Kaitlin@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:54 PM

To: Jim Kunstman <jkunstman@pbigordon.com>

Cc: Ray McAllister <rmcallister@croplifeamerica.org>; Manojit Basu <mbasu@croplifeamerica.org>; Chris Novak <novak@croplifeamerica.org>; rlattimore@croplifeamerica.org; jrathvon@paleyrothman.com; Messina, Edward <Edward.Messina@epa.gov>; Wormell, Lance <Wormell.Lance@epa.gov>; Teter, Royan <Teter.Royan@epa.gov>; Trivedi, Adrienne <Trivedi.Adrienne@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Your Recent Letter to AAPCO & SFIREG Re: Pesticide Impurities

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Jim,

Ed looped me on your question, as following the recent OCSPP reorganization, SFIREG engagement is coordinated by the Intergovernmental & Community Relations Branch—which is part of the new Office of Program Support. While I'm new to this portfolio, I'm not new to OCSPP and I'm familiar with the response to SFIREG on the pesticide impurities issue paper. Additionally, in my in my previous role I coordinated the formulation of OPP's guidance inventory earlier this year as required by E.O. 13891, so I probably enjoy discussing policy/procedures requirements more than most.

We could use some additional clarity regarding your statement that there was a change in standard procedures included in the response letter and where the response directly ties to federal/state marijuana issues. It seems like you might be referring to the discussion on misbranding related to organic labeling claims, but additional information or questions

would be helpful. Happy to discuss if that's easier. Additionally, I'm looping in our OECA colleagues to weigh in as needed if you have specific questions surrounding enforcement actions.

Thank you,
Kaitlin

Kaitlin Keller Picone
Chief, Intergovernmental & Community Relations Branch
Mission Support Division, Office of Program Support
U.S. EPA Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention
Office: (703) 347-0378
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Jim Kunstman <jkunstman@pbigordon.com>

Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 12:09 PM

To: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>

Cc: Ray McAllister <rmcallister@croplifeamerica.org>; Manojit Basu <mbasu@croplifeamerica.org>; Chris Novak <novak@croplifeamerica.org>; rlattimore@croplifeamerica.org; James Rathvon (jrathvon@paleyrothman.com) <jrathvon@paleyrothman.com>

Subject: Your Recent Letter to AAPCO & SFIREG Re: Pesticide Impurities

Ed,

I wonder if you would have a few moments to discuss the recent letter you sent to AAPCO and SFIREG Leadership. I understand that this letter was in response to their "White Paper" of Oct 16, 2018 regarding "Pesticide Impurities in EPA Registered Products". In general, I am excited that EPA wants to revisit the situation and come up with some ideas on resolution. The fact that this letter is proposing changes in some standard procedures, without being put out for public comment or discussion is very troubling. I found out about it due to a lawyer friend who indicated that the letter was already being used in a legal case between the State of OR and a company with an organic product caught up in the mess.

I don't know if you recall, but I was at the AAPCO meeting back in 2017 when Ms. Kachadoorian first formally presented the issues that were to be highlighted in their white paper. Examples that Rose used in her presentation were in fact based on products being distributed by PBI-Gordon. After her presentation, I spoke with you and Rick Keigwin in the back of the room about the subject and we discussed that indeed, the issue was not about pesticide impurities in general, but about the fact that the growing use of pesticides on marijuana was creating problems. These problems were primarily due to the fact that EPA could not move on registering pesticides on this crop, but that states were coming up with their own ways of dealing with the situation. States like OR, WA, CO, and CA put out their own lists of approved chemicals, most of which were either organic in nature, or were exempt from tolerances, and had enforcement rules which basically said that if a chemical not on their list was detected in marijuana, it had to be destroyed.

With the recent election voting to approve the "recreational use" of marijuana in more states .. and a new vice-president elect who is in favor of marijuana this is an issue which needs to be dealt with sooner than later. The 2018 Farm Bill opened the door for pesticides to be used on hemp (a cousin of marijuana), but not on crops containing more than 0.3% THC.

Your letter indicated that EPA has and is reviewing the situation, but without further discussion and comment by all parties involved, it should not be used to set policy or legal arguments. I've included Ray, Mano and Chris from CLA so that they are aware of the concern .. with hopes that a renewed discussion can take place .. and find some resolution

which doesn't involve states coming up with ways to deal with problems such as this that might create a bigger chasm between FIFRA and States Laws. At the very least, I would strongly urge you to either withdraw the letter .. or at least indicate that it sets a "starting point" for future discussions .. and NOT yet be used as policy or to confirm legal arguments.

As always .. I have long been supportive of the actions you've taken and know that the industry and EPA need to work together as much as possible .. to continue to preserve the long standing tradition of protecting our nation with safe and effective products. As indicated .. I am eager to talk more if you have the time and interest.

Best Regards .. Jim

James L Kunstman, PhD

Vice President, Regulatory & GLP Compliance
PBI-Gordon Corporation
22701 W 68th Terrace
Shawnee, KS 66226

PHONE: 816.460.6292

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FAX: 816.460.3792

EMAIL: jkunstman@pbigordon.com

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